

Certificate of Free Sale & Health Certificate/Certificate of Free Sale – EXPLAINED

What is a Certificate of Free Sale and what is its purpose?

- This Certificate, issued by the State of Arizona, Department of Agriculture, serves as a formal confirmation that the product(s) in question is freely sold to the public within the State and meets safety, health or other state requirements. The purpose of the free sale program is to encourage and foster the production and consumption of Arizona agricultural products, as well as consumable products produced in other states and abroad and sold or distributed in Arizona.
- Another important purpose of the Certificate of Free Sale is consumer protection. It is necessary to provide proof that the product(s) requested on the certificate are freely traded within the domestic channels of trade in Arizona, thereby protecting the consumer from potential foreign distributors dumping of a product that is no longer sold in the U.S. for perhaps some unsafe condition. This proof can be in the form of invoices or bills of lading generated within the 3-month period prior to the application date.

What is a Health Certificate / Certificate of Free Sale and what is its purpose?

- The Health Certificate, or Sanitary Certificate, was combined with the Certificate of Free Sale program to streamline the program, obtain a professional looking document, and ensure acceptable turn-around time from date of request to issuance date of the certificate. The Health Certificate is designed to help customers export food products whose premises and processes have been inspected by representatives of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, Animal Services Division. The premises and procedures must be in satisfactory compliance with all of the health and sanitary requirements for product wholesomeness as specified by state and federal Dairy and Dairy Products Control laws and rules. The cost for these certificates is the same as the Certificate of Free Sale program.

Who would be interested in a Certificate of Free Sale?

- Any person manufacturing or distributing a consumable product in Arizona, and who wants to sell it domestically or abroad, may apply to the Department of Agriculture for a Certificate of Free Sale.

- The Arizona Department of Agriculture only processes applications for consumable products. A consumable product is further defined as a product that is ingested or consumed by humans or animals. Free Sale Certificates for non-consumable items are issued by the Arizona Department of Commerce.

Is there any Arizona law pertaining to Certificates of Free Sale?

- Yes, Arizona Revised Statutes §3-109.2 E. states that the purpose of a certificate of free sale is to authenticate that a commodity is generally and freely sold in domestic channels of trade.

Whom do I contact if I have questions about a Certificate of Free Sale?

- The Arizona Department of Agriculture, Licensing & Registration Section, Phone: 602-542-3578.

How do I apply for a Certificate of Free Sale?

- An application for a Certificate of Free Sale/Health Certificate is obtained from the Department of Agriculture Web site:
<http://www.azda.gov/Main/freesale2.pdf>.

What are the costs involved in obtaining a Certificate?

- The cost for a certificate is \$25.00 for the first 100 products, then \$25.00 for each additional 100 products. The certificates are good for one year from the date of issue and duplicate copies can be obtained any time during that year for \$1.00 per page.

Where do I submit the completed application for a Certificate of Free Sale?

- Submit completed applications to the Arizona Department of Agriculture, Environmental Services Division, Licensing & Registration Section, 1688 West Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

